

# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

May 2026

A Publication of the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming History Museum

**MAY 7**

## **UNDER ONE ROOF: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN MUSIC HALL**

Historian Thea Tjepkema, a member of Cincinnati Music Hall's Friends of Music Hall, will talk about the Hall and in particular her interest in the Hall's African American heritage which includes Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Wyoming's own Nadine Waters.

Thea, wife of Cincinnati Pops conductor John Morris Russell, calls Music Hall her "obsession".

NOTE: This program will be at the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming's Great Room.



**PROGRAM IS AT 7 PM**

**WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GREAT ROOM**

**FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS**

[www.wyominghistoricalsociety.com](http://www.wyominghistoricalsociety.com)

Wyoming Historical Society  
800 Oak Avenue  
Wyoming OH 45215  
513.842.1383

[History@Wyomingohio.gov](mailto:History@Wyomingohio.gov)

Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00  
or by appointment.




**Wyoming History Museum**

A Unique and rewarding  
place to visit.

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Wyoming Historical Society  
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### THE WYOMING PASTRY SHOP

Serving the Village of Wyoming since 1934, Wyoming Pastry Shop is proudly owned by Catie and Justin Bancroft, the sixth stewards of this beloved hometown bakery. Catie began here as a counter girl in 2010 and, alongside Justin, now carries on its rich tradition while bringing new life to the shop. Together, they are committed to quality, creativity, and creating meaningful connections within the community.

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**-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR --**  
**PROGRAMS FOR**  
**THE 2026-2027 YEAR**

Anne Black, Program Chair, is working hard putting together next year's programs. Mark your calendars. Here are the dates we have booked so far. Our summer newsletter will have more details.

October 8, 2026 - Cincinnati Historic Preservation Association

November 12, 2026

January 14, 2027 - Wyoming Then and Now

February 11, 2027 & March 11, 2027

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**2026 Wyoming Historical Society**

**OFFICERS:**

Amy Pursley, President  
David Savage, Vice-President  
Tom Bond, Treasurer  
Kevin Grace, Secretary

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

Anne Black	Joe Hornsby	Sherry Sheffield
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**NEW LIFETIME MEMBER WELCOME...**

Mary Killen

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME...**

Mary E. Goeke      Ed Vick

**MEMBERSHIP...**

Our membership year is January-December with our membership drive happening late each fall. However, we gladly welcome new members at anytime of the year. For a year dues are: Individual \$25, Family \$50, Business \$75, Lifetime \$500. High school and college students are free. New members joining after September will be credited through December of the following year. New members please send your check made out to Wyoming Historical Society, with your name, address, phone and email and we will handle the rest. 800 Oak Avenue, Wyoming, OH 45215. Thank you.

## BACKYARD POULTRY...Amy Pursley

Backyard chickens have become more popular recently, but Arthur J. Gies took his hobby to a different level. After working in the railroad industry on the east coast for nearly 40 years, he moved his family to Wyoming, Ohio so he could start his own business, working closely with General Electric.

Gies, Inc. sold both household and commercial GE appliances such as refrigerators, ranges, water heaters, and washing machines. This job paid the bills and allowed him to pursue his true passion: raising poultry. While renting the house at 131 Elm Avenue, he raised specialty chickens and pigeons. In fact, he was selected to be one of the pigeon judges for the Carthage Fair in 1941 and 1942.

Arthur's crowning achievement came in 1943 when he entered several of his chickens and pigeons in the Boston Poultry Show. He won fourteen different awards for his Partridge Wyandotte Bantams and Silver Duckwing Old English Game Bantams. He also won seventeen awards for his pigeon entries in the categories of Tumblers, Modenas, and Baldheads.

His success at the poultry show may have affected his decision to close his appliance business and move back to Connecticut later that same year. Arthur's 1955 obituary listed him first and foremost as a "retired poultry breeder."



### Glendale: Looking Back Over 250 Years

An America 250 Exhibit

Presented by Glendale Heritage Preservation



Opening March 21 through the end of the year  
On display Thursday & Saturday 11-3 in the village depot

## STREET NAMES & THEIR STORIES

### CHENORA COURT

Named for the two landowners  
who had this road built.  
William Cheney and Herbert Nordsieck  
smashed their last names  
together to get Chenora Court.



Amy Pursley's book on the  
naming of Wyoming's streets is  
available in our offices for \$20.  
They make a great gift.

## THE BEST READ GENTLEMAN IN WYOMING...Amy Pursley

Henry B. Teetor, Mayor of Wyoming from 1874-1875, wrote a book titled "The Past and Present of Mill Creek Valley" (1882). In this book, Teetor described Samuel W. Williams as "one of the finest classical scholars and best read gentlemen in the West." He also described Williams' personal library as having "choice old and new books, numbering about twenty-five hundred volumes." (p. 316-317) The same year Teetor's book was published, Mr. Williams moved himself, his family and his library to 75 Mt. Pleasant Avenue.

As the editor of the Methodist Book Concern in Cincinnati, Williams was considered to be one of the foremost scholars on the history of the Methodist Church in the United States. The institution for which he worked was responsible for printing "Sunday school materials, books for reading and instruction, religious knowledge and biblical literature" which were distributed throughout the country. (<https://www.umph.org/Who-Are-We/History>)

On December 2, 1927, Samuel Williams celebrated his 100th birthday. At that time, he was the oldest living graduate of Woodward High School. He was also thought to be the oldest living college graduate and the oldest living member of Phi Beta Kappa in the United States. Two months and twelve days later, Samuel passed away peacefully in his sleep. He bequeathed his book collection to Ohio Wesleyan University. It was considered to be the most complete collection of books regarding the history of the Methodist Church in the United States.



Sam Williams

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## 250TH AND NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH...Joe Hornsby

In 2026, The City of Wyoming Mayor and Council is issuing a Proclamation declaring the Month of May, "National Preservation Month." The National Trust for Historic Preservation, in honoring the 250th anniversary of America, has chosen as its theme, "Rebuilding a shared sense of purpose and history!"

Wyoming's Proclamation honors the role our common heritage and historic architecture plays in creating the unique sense of place that makes Wyoming the great community it is today, and a charge for maintaining this for future generations.

It's my honor to serve with dedicated volunteers in both the Wyoming Historical Society and Historic Preservation Commission that understand the value and importance of preservation efforts displayed among many residents in Wyoming.

Perhaps a common misconception is that historic preservation is all about studying the past, or maintaining a desire for how things were before. While there may be aspects of nostalgia among the many collections of artifacts at the Historical Society Museum & Library or who lived in certain houses and how they looked originally, the biggest take away from involvement with these groups is more focused on what keys does this shared past contain as a community looking ahead.

Plan to join in the coming months in a variety of events themed towards celebrating the City of Wyoming: the path laid before, and this road we're continuously building with a shared sense of purpose and history!

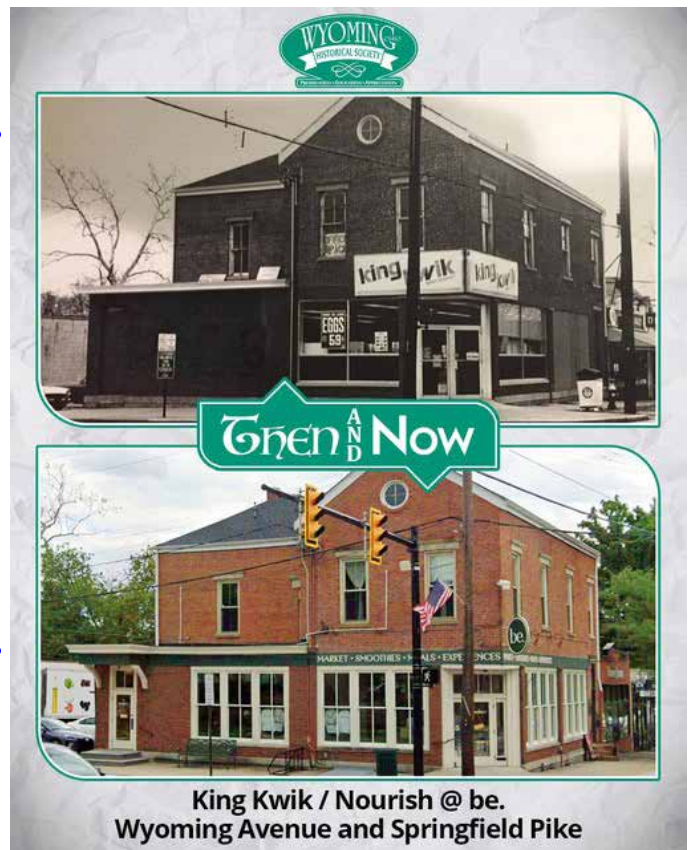
**The Wyoming Historical Society**  
**800 Oak Avenue**  
**Wyoming OH 45215**

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER... Amy Pursley**



Spring has sprung! If you're like me, spring cleaning is well underway. If you happen to come across some forgotten treasures with historical ties to Wyoming, we'd love to

help you clear up some space and take them off your hands. Most of our collection at the Historical Society has come from our members, friends and neighbors donating things found in odd corners of their houses. Let us know what interesting things you find this spring.



**King Kwik / Nourish @ be.**  
**Wyoming Avenue and Springfield Pike**